

Canton Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Canton Borough Council held a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at The John A. Mosser Canton Borough Municipal Building, 4 North Center Street, Canton. Council members in attendance were George Jennings, Jeff Cole, Deanna Watkins, Dave Atherton-Ely, Brian Koval, Joy Williams and Mayor David Groover Sr. Mike Shultz and Solicitor Cassi Blaney were absent. Chief Strozyk, David Wilson & James Bowman of the street Department were present. Leighanne Ellingham, zoning officer, was late.

Visitors: Shawn Packard, A member of the daily review, Aurora Groover and Walter Woods(refused to sign in).

Vice President Councilman George Jennings opened the Council meeting lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

Visitor Comments:

No Comments

Business:

Fuel Tank

Emerick explained the need for a fuel tank at the street shed. Dandy stopped offering off road diesel at their station recently. The street department has had to use police gas cards to get diesel from Kwik Fill at a higher price. The 500-gallon skid tank with pump is a free lease from WOC Energy. Dyed low sulfur diesel with 2% bio diesel (winter) \$2.959. Summer pricing is .02 -.03 cents per gallon less. Cole made a motion to accept this bid. Atherton-Ely seconded that motion. Any further discussion. Watkins asked how soon we could get this? Wilson stated as soon as I call them and when they are available. Roll call: All "Aye"

Lycoming Digital Copier Co Renewal

Emerick told the council we need to sign the 2026 contract to keep the printer we have. There was a slight increase in both black & white and color copies. Koval made a motion to approve the renewal. Williams seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Schoonover light quote for Fire Dept

Emerick explained that Ray Miller from the Fire Dept had asked for updated lighting around the building. A call to Schoonover for a quote proved worthwhile. The quote is for LED upgrades for 8 total exterior lights. Atherton-Ely asked what we currently have there and Jennings mentioned sodium lights that flicker and are very dim. Atherton-Ely made a motion to accept the quote. Koval seconded that motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Resolution of "Bus Stop Ahead" sign

Emerick told council she contacted Steve Kehoe from PennDOT originally when the sign was brought up. Steve explained that the site needing the sign was not a state road and the borough would be responsible for this. He also let Emerick know that one of the signs would be 100 feet into the townships line. Emerick made sure that putting up one of the two signs would be okay. Blaney drew up a resolution. Cole made a motion to pass the resolution. Koval seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

2026 Canton Borough Monthly Meetings

Emerick gave council a printout of the proposed monthly meeting schedule for 2026. The meeting in January needs to be moved to the 5th instead of the 12th to meet state regulations for the mandatory reorganization meeting. Emerick is going to call PSAB to make sure of this.

There was also a list of paid holidays for the borough's employees. Watkins made a motion to accept the schedule. Atherton-Ely seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Health Insurance for 2026

Emerick said that there was no new information to give to the council. A decision must be made to meet the deadline of December 15th with Highmark our current provider. Discussion of needing to cut costs on healthcare is a must to help the budget. Talk of keeping a group plan would be in the borough's best interest. Emerick will keep looking throughout the year for better options to save money. Not waiting till the end of the year to make such a big change in benefits. Koval mentioned reaching out to PSAB to see if they offer a preferred contractor for such benefits. Atherton-Ely made a motion to renew the current Highmark plan for 2026. Williams seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Mulch quote for the playground

Emerick reached out to Jayson Wood about where we could purchase mulch from. He came back with Willow Playworks out of Mifflinburg PA. We received a quote of 55CY delivered for \$1,625.00. The street department would be responsible for spreading once it is delivered. Atherton-Ely mentioned he would still paint the dugouts and till the baseball field for the kids to play. Hopeful to get some volunteer help. Watkins made a motion to accept the quote. Atherton-Ely seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

2026 Budget finalization

Emerick has made a few more options for a budget. Option 3 looks the best when it comes to numbers. It is a more realistic budget using only what we know we are going to need for 2026. Liquid fuels needs dire attention. The amount of revenue for that account can't hold up to expenses that are linked to that account. Emerick explains that Act 13 money can be used for some of these expenses. The salt prices keep going up and the revenue from the state keeps decreasing each year. Council discussed what else could be done and agreed to a 1.25 Mil increase. Atherton-Ely made a motion to readvertise the revised budget. Watkins seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Eligibility for the sidewalk grant

Emerick emailed Elizabeth for an update and clarification on this grant. There are five qualifying factors. You must be a borough resident. You must provide proof of income. You must provide the most recent property tax notice. You must provide a copy of your deed. You must provide a copy of your homeowner's insurance/ flood insurance. The grant can only help 6 potential properties. Depending on the length of the sidewalks needed. Atherton-Ely made a motion to table this until January. Koval seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye"

Advertise Codes Enforcement Officer

Tabled for the executive session.

Audit for 2025

Emerick explains reaching out to Larson & Kellett in Montoursville. They informed us that we have not filed our 2024 DCED audit. When there is a change in personnel handling money there should be a special audit done to relieve the previous employee and set the new employee on good standings. Emerick will find out more information regarding what has or has not been completed and what needs done to move forward.

Boggs quote on computer technology

Emerick had no information to bring forward on this topic. Boggs explained that this was asked of him by Shultz. Emerick will reach out to Boggs to potentially have him at a meeting to explain the quote. Tabled for a further date to discuss.

Payment for phase 3 of the basketball court

Emerick told council that the pay application 3 is due. Talk of where the money might need to be transferred from to pay for this. Watkins made a motion to pay application 3. Cole seconded the motion. Council discussed where the money could be moved from. Maybe taking out a CD to cover cost? Consensus is using what we have saved to pay for this. Roll call: All "Aye"

Police Department

Report:

Two hotspots were miscommunicated. One of them is being returned. One must stay for the part time vehicle with the computer in it. Watkins asked the difference between code numbers. Cars are running well. Andrew Whitehead will be available at the end of the month or beginning of 2026. One applicant to apply for full-time position. Background check proved to not be eligible.

Street Department

Street Report for November:

Monday morning street check and brush pick up
Leaf pick up for two and a half weeks
Ready equipment for snow
Service equipment weekly
Built top-soil screen
Finished pit work
Cleaned shop
Took Freightliner to Watson's for minor adjustments
Washed trucks and equipment
Odds and ends around the shop

The radio is going into the Freightliner on Monday December 15th. Watkins asked about salt only for the roads and no anti-skid? Wilson explains we don't need anti-skid. Previous complaints about making things very dirty in businesses with the anti-skid. Not using it saves the borough money.

Zoning Officer

Ellingham has made a list of permits for the 24-25 year. Hung in the office for reference. An addition and two roofs this month for permits. Koval asks for explanation on zoning permit and building permits. Ellingham explains that on the outside is zoning and building permits would be structural and internal through Codes Inspection. Most times with new construction we will need both zoning and building permits. Ellingham explains the breakdown of the permits available to the public.

Fire Department

Fire Report for November:

Jennings explains re-election and restructure of the fire department. Ray miller is Chief, Brett Neely is canton 2, Nate Jennings canton 3, Cale Holmes canton 4, Kerrick Hughs canton 5. (The spelling of these names is most likely incorrect)

Emergency Management

Nothing to add.

Recreation Committee Report

Nothing new besides getting the mulch. The work Atherton-Ely and volunteers to get the T-ball field useable. Koval asked about composting needs added to the budget for 2026. Wilson talks of keeping an eye on Municbid for used playground equipment for a discounted rate. We must go pick the equipment up ourselves.

Mayor's Remarks:

Groover congratulates the upcoming mayor. He mentions the police department has been heading in a very good direction. He would like to see that quality grow with the officers we've been getting. He hopes everything keeps going smoothly and increasingly better with communication. Wishing the best of luck. Council thanks David.

Junior Council Person Program

Still no interest or added members.

General Information (no information or action required)

Emerick shares the Canton Area Food Pantry is asking for donations with increased needs locally. Jennings explains EQT has rented the parking lot at the fairgrounds. They will be out for the fair and whatever events are there. Just a general staging area. This is for two years. The fire department owns that property. Groover asked for a police committee meeting before the first of the year. Discussing the SOP.

For the Good of the Order

Next Meeting – January 5, 2026 6pm at the John Mosser Canton Borough Building.

At this time the meeting recessed for an executive session on legal personnel matters.

Meeting reconvened and announced certified letters to be mailed to previous employees. Atherton-Ely made that motion. Cole seconded the motion. Roll call: All "Aye" Council announced new office hours to be Monday thru Friday 7am to 3pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm

Olive Emerick
Sec./Treas.

